Letters from the Rebbe Printed for the first time - Shidduchim -

תשורה

מחגיגת ה"ווארט" של החתן הת' שלום דובער הלוי שי ליווער עב"ג הכלה מרת חי' מושקא שתי גאלדבערג

טו"ב סיון תשפ"ג

שנת הקהל

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¹ These letters are being published here for the first time courtesy of Rebbe Responsa. To view these letters as well as thousands of other letters of the Rebbe written originally in english, download the "Rebbe Responsa" app.

Note; The rebbe adresses men with "Greeting and Blessing" and women with "Blessing and Greeting". - see diary of R' E. Gross 1 Tammuz 5710 (Yemei Bereishis p. 182).

1

Advice for finding a shidduch²

By the Grace of G-d 24th of Marcheshvan, 5718 Brooklyn, N.Y.

Miss . . . Brooklyn, N.Y.

Blessing and Greeting:

I received your letter, in which you write that you have set your mind on the kind of person you would like to marry, but find it difficult to meet such a person.

However, in matters of a Shldduch, as in any other thing, it is no good limiting oneself, or limiting G-d's help, to any particular and narrow objective. I therefore do not think that you should so limit yourself as to consider only a Rabbi or a professional man as the only possible partner for you.

Another point is that it is necessary to do something in a natural and suitable way to meet a suitable party, while, at the same time having full faith in the Almighty, that He will send His blessing, and the stronger such faith will be, the quicker one will see the realization of it. Besides, a person who has faith and optimism, is a more cheerful and a more successful person, than one who is discouraged and pessimistic.

And so you should try to enlist the help of your friends in this matter, and have complete faith in the Creator and master of the world, Who takes care of everything and everybody, that He will also take care of you. May G-d fulfill your heart's desire, in a way that is best for you, materially and spiritually.

With blessing,

2

² Source: secretary's copy.

Continuation of previous letter³

By the Grace of G-d 18th of Kislev, 5718 Brooklyn, N.Y.

Miss . . . Brooklyn, N.Y.

Blessing and Greeting:

I duly received your letter of November 30th. Needless to say that the reason I wrote to you that you should not limit yourself in the matter of a Shidduch, to looking for a Rabbi only, is not because I think that you may not be worthy of a Rabbi or anything of the sort. It is only that I think that in this case, as in all other situations, we should not limit the Almighty in any particular way, nor insist on certain conditions, for no human being knows exactly what is best for him, and must leave it to G-d.

You write that some of your friends have married Rabbis and are happy. But surely there are some of your friends who have also married laymen and are also happy. So have complete faith in G-d that He will lead you along the path that is best for you, materially and spiritually.

I hope you will have good news to write about.

With blessing,

By (secretary)

³ Source: Secretary's copy.

Use of Yeshiva's auditorium, forgoing principles for financial gain⁴

By the Grace of G-d 3rd of Menachem Av, 5720 Brooklyn, N.Y.

Blessing and Greeting:

I received your letter of July 3rd, and regret that due to extreme pressure of duties, my reply has been delayed.

I was very pleased to read in your letter that the medical treatment was successful, and I hope that by the time you receive this letter you will have made a complete recovery. May G-d grant that from now on you will have no such distractions, and you will be able to continue your work to strengthen the Yeshiva, with joy and gladness of heart. All the more so since this year, as you know, marks the 200th anniversary of the Baal Shem Tov's completion of his life's work, Complete faith in G-d's benevolent providence which extends to everyone individually, and serving G-d with joy, are the basic principles of his teachings.

With regard to the question of the use of the Yeshiva facilities, especially of the auditorium, and the limitations which have been placed by the Yeshivah administration in regard to renting out these facilities, let me say, first of all, the important thing is not this or that remark by one or another who wants to create trouble for the Yeshiva. The question of the limitations should be considered on its own merits.

Needless to say, the auditorium should be made available for marriages, Bar Mitzvos, and similar simchas, and the more the better. For it is not only a question of financial income for the Yeshiva, but it is also a way of familiarizing the community at large with the idea that their family affairs and simchas should take place at the Yeshiva auditorium, and in a way which corresponds to the directives of the Torah and Mitzvos. For in such a case the important events which will be celebrated there will have

⁴ Source: Copy typed from the original.

a lasting benefit for them and all their friends and the community at large.

However it is self understood that it is impossible to forgo a principle, especially one that is dictated by the Torah, simply because in doing it there would be an additional financial gain. Moreover, such a principle cannot be given up because of the moral benefits mentioned above. For the whole standing of the yeshiva would thus be jeopardized. Even a private person, and certainly a public institution, must zealously guard its name, and even more so an educational institution such as the Yeshiva. For the education of students is not confined to the lessons, but is influenced by the general conduct of the Yeshiva's affairs. We live in a world where people do not generally go into their inner aspects of daily occurrences, but judge by the external aspects, and unfortunately, are ready to draw their own conclusions. For this reason it is necessary for the Yeshiva to take special precautions so as not to expose itself to questionable conduct.

With regard to the limitations set up for the use of the Yeshiva facilities, as far as I know, the facilities are not made available to an affair which would involve Sabbath desecration, which unfortunately is quite prevalent nowadays. Another aspect of the limitations is the question of safeguarding the laws of Shulchan Aruch in relation to the marriage celebrations, especially public singing by women, mixed dancing, etc. The latter aspect is particularly in conflict not only with the principal of a truly Orthodox Yeshiva, but even with the so-called "neo-Orthodox" or "modern Orthodox," or other similar strange names which have been invented to confuse the public and to facilitate deviation from the way of the Torah and Mitzvoth.

What would we think of a person who preaches one way of life and then goes about contradicting it in his own conduct? How much more so in the case of an educational institution which teaches and preaches a certain way of life which is in the vital interest of its students for the rest of their lives. One can plainly see that havoc would be wrought in the minds of the children when they see the Yeshiva acting in a way which is contradictory to the ideals and principals which it endeavors to install into them. This is especially true of American Children who are very sensitive to insincerity and falsehood and any kind of two-faced conduct. Their whole attitude towards the Yeshiva and its ideals would be endangered if after being taught on Friday, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy", they come and see the following day the sacred commandment is publicly desecrated on the very premise of the Yeshiva, with people coming and going in cars, etc. The same is in regard to the question of mixed dancing, which, in addition to being a violation to the Shulchan Aruch, also encourages immodesty, laxity, etc.

It goes without saying that I am in complete agreement with you when you say that the people who helped to build the Yeshiva want, and have a right, to expect that their children should be married there and their children's Bar Mitzvos should be celebrated there. Not only do I agree with you fully, but I say that they should be encouraged to do so. However, I repeat, in order that the wedding or Bar Mitzvah should be a blessed affair, it must be arranged in accordance with the Torah and Mitzvoth, and not, G-d forbid, in contradiction to it.

You mention a certain person, who having created trouble for the Yeshiva in connection with these limitations, yet went ahead and arranged affairs permitting mixed dancing, etc., this is of course both unfortunate and regrettable. However Jews who have always been a minority among gentiles, and even Orthodox Jews who have been a minority among Jews in certain communities, have learned not to be influenced or weakened in their convictions by the conduct of others. As we have the prophetic promise that eventually the Truth of the Torah will Prevail, no matter what the odds are, as it is written in regard to the father of our nation, "Abraham was one, yet his seed inherited the whole earth" (Ezekiel 33:24).

I trust that the above lines, though all too short in relation to the importance of the subject matter, will suffice for a person of your background, especially as you are the president of the P.T.A. and the Sisterhood. For your election to these high offices clearly indicates that you have an understanding and sensitivity for such matters. I trust therefore, that you will find the suitable words to convey the thoughts expressed above to all those concerned with the problem about which you wrote me. I hope that you will use your influence in the P.T.A. and Sisterhood and whenever possible, and in a growing measure in the best interests of the Yeshiva.

With blessing,

By Nissan Mindel

P.S. you write that owing to the inevitable limitations which the Yeshiva had to impose upon in facilities, there have been cancellations and a financial loss to the Yeshiva of several hundred dollars in revenue. As I stated above, that it is impossible that money earned in any way which contradicts the ideals of the Yeshiva, for G-d's blessings cannot be earned through transgressing His commandments. Nevertheless, I was fortunate in finding a donor, who learning of the situation and realizing the importance of supporting the principals of the Yeshiva, generously contributed the amount of Chai times Chai (\$324.00) through our Merkos L'inyonei Chinuch, whose check for that amount is enclosed herein.

4

The transformation of a Ger⁵

By the Grace of G-d 3rd of Cheshvan, 5721 Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. Abraham Gafni 11 Empress Road East St. Kilda

Greeting and Blessing:

I received your letter, which you wrote on the day after the Holy Day, Yom Kippur, with the good and happy news that you have become a full Jew, an event which you write has completely transformed you. This is fully in accord with the statement of our Sages, that "A Ger, on becoming a Jew, is like a newborn child", that is to say, a completely new person.

I hope and pray that you will retain this feeling of Joy and exultation, and the deep sense of responsibility and other worthy feelings which you expressed, throughout your life, and that these feelings be the true

⁵ Source: Photocopy of the original.

dynamic forces in your daily life, to live up to the Torah and Mitzvoth in the fullest measure.

Your contact with our Yeshiva and friends in Melbourne will surely be very helpful to you, and I am looking forward to receiving good news from you in all above, as well as in the matter of a suitable Shidduch.

With blessing,

M. Schneerson

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן Lubevitch ליובאווימש 770 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn 13, N. Y. דיסטערן פארטויי 770 HYacinth 5-0250 ברוקלין. ג. י. By the Grace of 0-d 2rd of Cheshvan, 5721 Brooklyn, N. T. Mr. Abraham Gafni 11 Empress Road East St. Kilds Greeting and Elessing: I received your letter, which you wrote on the day after the Holy Day, Yom Kippur, with the good and happy news that you have become a full Jew, an event which you write has completely transformed you. This is fully in accord with the statement of our Sages, that "a Ger, on becoming a 2023 Jew, is like a newborn child," that is to say, a completely new person. I hope and pray that you will retain this feeling of joy and exal-tation, and the deep sense of responsibility and other worthy feelings which you expressed, throughout your life, and that these feelings be the true dynamic forces in your daily life, to live up to the Torah and Mitzvoth in the fullest measure. Your contact with our Yeshiva and friends in Melbourne will surely be very halpful to you, and I am looking forward to receiving good news from you in all above, as well as in the matter of a suitable with blessing m. Schmerton

By the Grace of G-d 16th Marcheshvan, 5722 Brooklyn N. Y.

Miss Sarah Rifkah Posner c/o Rav G. M. Garelik Via Giulio Uberti, 41 Milano (418)

Blessing and Greeting:

I received your letter of the 7th of Cheshvan, and I was pleased to note that there has been an improvement in your frame of mind. I trust that you will continue to foster the spirit of confidence, and as I pointed out to you in my previous letter, that you have good reason to be in a happy frame of mind. This will also contribute greatly to the success of your sacred duties in bringing up Jewish Children closer to their Father in Heaven.

On the question of Kinyan or "word", this does not necessarily have to be done at any particular time, but can be done also close to the wedding, in a happy and auspicious hour.

With regard to the advisability of your making a trip to Eretz Yisroel for Chanuka, I can well understand your feelings and desire to make this trip, but, on the other hand, I do not think it is the right thing for you to do. On a little reflection, you, too, will acknowledge that it is not in keeping with the Jewish way, much less with the Chassidish way. For even when the Chosson and Kalo are in the same city, or in two cities not distant from each other, it is the Jewish way to avoid meeting each other before the wedding. How much more so, to make a trip of such extent, with the publicity involved, not to mention expenses in terms of money, energy, time, etc., and all in order to do something which is not advisable in the first place.

⁶ Source: Photocopy of the original.

I am sure you will take it to heart if you will consider that you and your chosen partner in life are determined to set up a true Jewish home, a Binyan **Adei-ad**, when you will share each other's company for many, many decades, in the true happiness and harmony of the Chassidic way of life.

With Blessing,

By Nissan Mindel

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON Lubavitch 770 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn 13, N. Y.

HYacinth 3-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן ליובאוויפש

770 איסטערן פאַרקוויי ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d lóth of Marcheshvan, 5722 Brooklyn,N. Y.

Miss Sarah Rifkah Posner c/o Rav G. M. Garslik Via Giulio Uberti, 41 Milano (418)

Blessing and Greeting:

I received your letter of the 7th of Cheshvan, and I was pleased to note that there has been an improvement in your frame of mind. I trust that you will continue to foster the spirit of confidence, and as I pointed out to you in my previous letter, that you have good reason to be in a happy frame of mind. This will also contribute greatly to the success of your sacred duties in bringing Jewish children closer to their Father in Heaven.

On the question of a Kinyan, or "word," this does not necessarily have to be done at any particular time, but can be done also close to the time of the wedding, in a happy and suspicious hour.

With regard to the advisability of your making a trip to Eretz Yisroel for Chanukah, I can well understand your feelings and desire to make this trip, but, on the other hand, I do not think it is the right thing for you to do. On a little reflection, you, too, will acknowledge that it would not be in keeping with the Jewish way, much less with the Chassidic way. For even when the Chosson and Kalo are in the same city, or in two cities not distant from each other, it is the Jewish way to avoid meeting each other before the wedding. How much more so, to make a trip of such extent, with the publicity involved, not to mention expenses in terms of money, energy, time, etc., and all in order to do something which is not advisable in the first place.

I am sure you will not take it to heart if you will consider that you and your chosen partner in life are determined to set up a true Jewish home, a Binyan <u>Adei-ad</u>, when you will share each other's company for many, many decades, in the true happiness and harmony of the Chassidic way of life.

With blessing. By Ainan Auis al

Where to celebrate the wedding⁷

By the Grace of G-d 11th Adar [II], 5722

Blessing and Greeting:

I was pleased to receive your letter of the 10th Adar I, and to note that it was written in a happier frame of mind, which I trust will be continuous and in a growing measure, especially as we are in the auspicious month of Adar.

I read with special interest the report about your work, and I wish you a growing measure of success.

With regard to the question of where to celebrate your wedding, I made it clear to your father that my suggestion was not to be taken as final, and was no more than a suggestion. It is up to both sides to decide finally where the marriage should take place בשטומ"צ.

With Blessing

by Nissan Mindel

7

Continuation of previous letter⁸

By the Grace of G-d 27th Adar II 5722

Blessing and Greeting,

Your letter of the 8th of Adar reached me with considerable delay. I trust that since this letter your health has improved both physically as well as spiritually.

⁷ Source: Copy typed from the original.

⁸ Source: Copy typed from the original.

As for the questions relating to your wedding etc. your parents must have written to you after they talked to me, and in addition you already have my views on the matter as of my previous correspondence to you.

As we are now in the auspicious time between Purim and Pesach both of which are festivals of deliverance may G-d grant that every one of us in the midst of all our people will be delivered from all our anxieties and obstacles, so that each and every one of us can fulfill his mission in life to the fullest degree.

With blessing,

By Nissan Mindel

8

Advice and blessings for Shidduch⁹

By the Grace of G-d 7th of Adar, 5724 Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr..... Salford 7, Lancs. England

Greeting and Blessing:

I am in receipt of your letter of Rosh Chodesh Adar in which you write about the Shidduch, and ask my advice.

Generally speaking, it would be well to discuss the matter with friends in your vicinity who know both you and the young lady. Judging by your description, however, and again speaking in general terms, the Shidduch seems to be a suitable one, and your friends will no doubt advise you to proceed with it. May it therefore be in a happy and auspicious hour. Especially as your letter was significantly written on Rosh Chodesh Adar, which is an auspicious month for the Jewish people, and which

⁹ Source: Photocopy of the original

immediately, from the first day, brings an increased measure of joy to our people.

Although my reply was conveyed to you over the telephone, this is here confirmed.

Wishing you a happy and inspiring Purim

With blessing

M. Schneerson

P.S. Since writing the above, your cable was received, and I sent you a cable containing the blessing that it (השידוך) should take place in a happy and auspicious hour.

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON Lubavitch 770 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn 13, N. Y.

HYacinth 3-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן ליוכאווימש

איסטערן פארקוויי 770 איסטערן פארקוויי דיסטערן ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d 7th of Adar, 5724 Brooklyn, N. Y.

Salford 7, Lancs. England

Greeting and Blessing:

I am in receipt of your letter of Rosh Chodesh Adar in which you write about the Shidduch, and ask my advice.

Generally speaking, it would be well to discuss the matter with friends in your vicinity who know both you and the young lady. Judging by your description, however, and acain speaking in general terms, the Shidduch seems to be a suitable one, and your friends will no doubt advise you to proceed with it. May it therefore be in a happy and auspicious hour. Especially as your letter was significantly written on Hosh Chodesh Adar, which is an auspicious month for the Jewish people, and which immediately, from the first day, brings an increased measure of joy to our people.

Although my reply was conveyed to you over the telephone, this is here confirmed.

Wishing you a happy and inspiring Purim

With blessing M. Schneerbon

P.S.

. Since writing the above, your cable was received, and I sent you a cable containing the blessing that it(נוס, פה) should take place in a happy and auspicious hour.

Advice for a Shidduch¹⁰

By the Grace of G-d 15th of Iyar, 5724 Brooklyn, N.Y.

Miss B. S. Yentis 38, Brent Street Hendon London, W.W.4, England

Blessing and Greeting:

I received your letter postdated April 20th. If you will let me know the exact Hebrew names, together with the mother's Hebrew name of those mentioned in your letter, I will remember them in prayer, as requested.

With regard to the question of a Shidduch, I trust that you are concentrating attention on the essential aspect of a Shidduch, namely that the person in question should be an observant Jew, with whom it would be possible to set up a truly Jewish home, on the foundations of the Torah and Mitzvoth. This is the way to receive G-d's blessings in general, and especially in the matter of a Shidduch, when a special Divine blessing is needed to ensure that the marriage should be truly "an everlasting edifice".

With blessing,

By Nissan Mindel

¹⁰ Source: Photocopy of the original.

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON Lubavitch 770 EASTERN PARKWAY BROOKLYN 13, N. Y

HYacinth 3-9250

ליובאוויטש

770 איסטערן פארקוויי ברוקלין ג. י.

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With blessing

By Aisan Sundel

Blessings for a Shidduch¹¹

By the Grace of G-d 11th of Kislev, 5735

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Miss Raizel Adler Seminaire Beth Rivkah 49, Avenue Raymond Poincare 91 Yeres, France

Blessing and Greeting:

Your letter of the 12th of Cheshvan reached me with some delay.

May G-d grant the fulfillment of your heart's desires for good, especially in the matter of a good Shidduch, in accordance with your writing.

Now that we are in the auspicious month of Kislev, and will soon observe Yud Tes Kislev, the Chag HaGeulo, followed by the festival of Chanukah, may G-d grant that it should bring each and everyone, in the midst of our people, a Geulo from all negative and distracting things, through the observance of the Torah and Mitzvoth in a growing measure, as symbolized by the lighting of the Chanukah candles in growing numbers from day to day.

I trust that you are participating in the candle-lighting activity to encourage also unmarried girls to light candles before Shabbos and Yom Tov.

With the blessing of Chag HaGeulo and a bright Chanukah,

M. Schneerson

¹¹ Source: Photocopy of the original.

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON Lubavitch 770 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn, N. Y. 11213

Hyacinth 3-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן ליוכאוויפש

דיסמערן פארקוויי 770 איסמערן ברוקלין, נ. י.

23. 1. 17. 17

by the Grace of G-d llth of Kislev, 5735 Brooklyn, N. Y.

Miss Raizel Adler Semineire Beth Rivkab 49, Avenue Raymond Poincare 91 Yeres, France

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I trust that you are participating in the candle-lighting activity to encourage also unmarried girls to light candles before Shabbos and Yom Tov.

> With the blessing of Chag NaGeulo and a bright Chanukah, M. Johnson

lover/

Significance of marriage in the month of Sivan¹²

By the Grace of G-d 28th of Iyar, 5746

Brooklyn, N. Y.

To the Committee of Friends of Bris Avrohom 35 Cottage Street Jersey City, N.J. 07306

Greeting and Blessing:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 3rd, about the forthcoming marriage of a group of Russian Jewish couples of all ages "in accordance with the Law of Moshe and Yisroel" - which they had not been able to solemnize in the country from which they came.

I extend prayerful wishes and Mazel Tov to each and all of this group, that the event take place in a happy and auspicious hour and - in the words of the blessings under the Chuppah - be a **Binyan Adei Ad**, an Everlasting Edifice on the foundations of the Torah and Mitzvoth.

It is significant that this event is taking place in the month of Mattan Torah, and soon after the Festival of Mattan Torah, which is described in the Torah itself as the "marriage" between the Jewish people and the Torah, and was the time when HaShem's designated our people as a "Kingdom of Kohanim (HaShem's servants) and a Holy Nation". This is therefore the time when Jews, men and women, renew and reaffirm their commitment and loyalty to the Torah and the Mitzvoth in the everyday life and conduct.

I trust, and I am confident, that this happy occasion will serve as a source of inspiration to the entire Jewish community of the State of New Jersey with a lasting inspiration that will be translated into actual deeds, in accordance with the basic principle of Yiddishkeit that the "essential thing is the deed".

¹² Source: Photocopy of the original.

With prayerful wishes for a joyous and inspiring Festival and the traditional blessing of Receiving the Torah with joy and inwardness,

With esteem and blessing

M. Schneerson

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON Lubawitch 770 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn. N. Y. 11213 493-9250 מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן ליובאווימש

770 איסמערן פארקוויי 770 ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d 28th of Iyar, 5746 Brooklyn, N. Y.

To the Committee of Friends of Bris Avrohom 35 Cottage Street Jersey City, N. J. 07306

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This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 3rd, about the forthcoming marriage of a group of Russian Jewish couples of all ages "in accordance with the Law of Moshe and Yisroel" - which they had not been able to solemnize in the country from which they came.

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With prayerful wishes for a joyous and inspiring Festival and the traditional blessing of Receiving the Torah with joy and inwardness,

With esteem and blessing (. Comerton

Nes, rallying together, marriage¹³

By the Grace of G-d 14th day of Av, 5750 Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the Gala Wedding Celebration Willowdale, Ontario

Greeting and Blessing!

In response to the notification of the forthcoming marriage of a group of Russian Jewish couples, "in accordance with the Law of Moshe and yisroel," I hereby send my heartfelt greeting and blessing of Mazal Tov Mazal Tov. May this undertaking be crowned with great success in all aspects.

The current year 'πwich has been designated as a year of Nissim (miracles), adds a further meaning to the message relating to the event. In Loshon HaKodesh, the word Nes (miracle) also means a flagpole, or banner, which is used as an effective means of rallying people together for a common purpose. And, of course, the common purpose of all Jews is to make this world a fitting "dwelling place" for HaShem - in our heart and mind, in our home, and in the world at large.

I am confident that all the participating couples will make their home a fitting "dwelling place" for HaShem, and that this happy event will be a source of lasting inspiration stimulating continuous advancement in all matters of Yiddishkeit, Torah and Mitzvos, not only to the participating couples, but also to the entire Jewish community.

With prayerful wishes for Hatzlocho in all above, and

¹³ Source: Photocopy of the original (sent to the Jewish Russian Community of Toronto. For whatever reason, the letter was sent unsigned).

with blessing of Mazal Tov Mazal Tov

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON Lubavitch 770 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn. N. Y. 11213 493-9250 מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן ליובאוויפש

770 איסטערן פארקוויי

ברוקלין, נ.י.

By the Grace of G-d 14th day of Av, 5750 Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the Gala Wedding Celebration Willowdale, Ontario

Greeting and Blessing!

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